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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are active in the present application. Claims 1-11 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. Claims 12 and 13 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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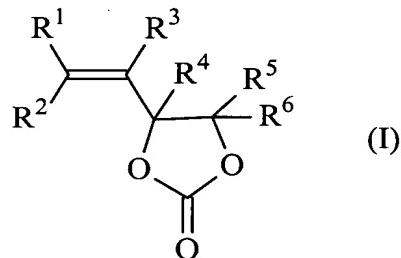
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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising a negative electrode, a positive electrode and an electrolyte having a lithium salt dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent, [characterized in that] wherein said non-aqueous solvent [contains] comprises a vinylethylene carbonate compound represented by the following [general] formula (I) in an amount of from 0.01% to 20% by weight:



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

2. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to Claim 1, wherein said negative electrode [contains] comprises a carbon-based material capable of absorbing and releasing lithium.

4. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent is a mixed solvent [containing] comprising a cyclic carbonate selected from the group consisting of alkylene carbonates [the] having an alkylene group moiety of [which each have] from 2 to 4 carbon atoms and a chain carbonate selected from the group consisting of dialkyl carbonates [carbonate the] having an alkyl group moiety of [which each have] from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, wherein [except] the vinylethylene carbonate compound of [the general] formula (I) [each] is present in an amount of not [smaller] less than 20 vol-%, [with the proviso that the content of] and wherein said cyclic and chain carbonates [accounts for not smaller] are present in an amount of not less than 70 vol-% based on the total solvent amount [thereof].

5. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent except the vinylethylene carbonate compound of the [general] formula (I) [contains] comprises one or more solvents [selected from solvents] having a relative dielectric constant of not [smaller] less than 25 and [exhibits] a flash point of not lower than 70°C.

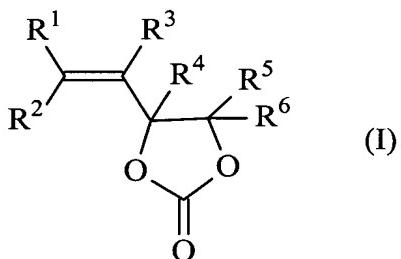
6. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous solvent except the vinylethylene carbonate compound of the [general] formula (I) [is selected from solvents having] has a relative dielectric constant of not [smaller] less than 25.

7. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to Claim 5 [or 6], wherein said solvent having a relative dielectric constant of not [smaller] less than 25 is selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, γ -butyrolactone and γ -valerolactone.

8. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to Claim 5 [or 6], wherein said solvent having a relative dielectric constant of not [smaller] less than 25 is a mixture of ethylene carbonate and γ -butyrolactone.

9. (Amended) The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to [any one of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, wherein [said] the lithium salt is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of LiClO₄, LiPF₆, LiBF₄, LiCF₃SO₃, LiN(CF₃SO₂)₂, LiN(CF₃CF₂SO₂)₂, LiN(CF₃SO₂)(C₄F₉SO₂) and LiC(CF₃SO₂)₃.

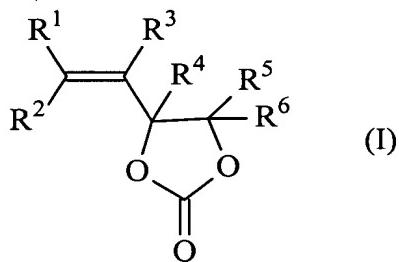
10. (Amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising at least a negative electrode and a positive electrode capable of absorbing/releasing lithium [which comprises] , said non-aqueous electrolyte comprising a solute and a non-aqueous solvent, [characterized in that] wherein said non-aqueous solvent [contains] comprises a vinylethylene carbonate compound represented by [the following [general] formula (I) in an amount of from 0.01 to 20% by weight:



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

11. (Amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte for a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising at least a negative electrode and a positive electrode capable of absorbing/releasing lithium [which comprises] , said non-aqueous electrolyte comprising a solute and a non-aqueous solvent, [characterized in that] wherein said non-aqueous solvent

[contains] comprises one or more solvents [selected from solvents having] wherein said one or more solvents have a relative dielectric constant of not [smaller] less than 25, is present in an amount of not [smaller] less than 90% by weight, exhibits a flash point of not lower than 70°C and comprises at least one vinylethylene carbonate represented by [the following general] formula (I) [incorporated therein]:



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claims 12-13 (New).--